

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

DRC-01 /193 W

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R 101634Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5980

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

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SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE

GENEVA FOR GATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR/FR

SUBJECT: POMPIDOU REAFFIRMS FRENCH POSITION ON AGRICULTURE

SUMMARY: A LARGE GATHERING OF FARM LEADERS PROVIDED A FORUM
FOR PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AND AGMINISTER CHIRAC TO REAFFIRM
TRADITIONAL FRENCH POSITIONS ON AGRICULTURE. HOWEVER,
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THESE POSITIONS WERE STATED IN A MODERATE VEIN WITH NO DIRECT

ATTACKS ON THE POSITIONS OF OTHER EC MEMBERS OR THIRD COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AND AGMINISTER CHIRAC SPOKE AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE. PRIME MINISTER MESSMER, GISCARD D'ESTAING AND OTHER CABINET MEMBERS AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SENATE WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

2. POMPIDOU AND CHIRAC STRONGLY DEFENDED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE INDISPENSABILITY OF THE CAP. POMPIDOU AND OTHER SPEAKERS POINTED OUT THAT CAP REPRESENTED THE ONLY COMMON POLICY ACHIEVED THUS FAR BY THE EC. SEVERAL SPEAKERS STRESSED NEED FOR COMMON POLICIES IN MONETARY, TRANSPORT AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. POMPIDOU STATED THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT FRENCH HAD RECEIVED IMPORTANT BENEFITS FROM THE CAP. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL EC COUNTRIES HAD RECEIVED PROPORTIONATE BENEFITS BECAUSE OTHERS HAD RECEIVED MORE BENEFITS FROM THE OPENING OF EC MARKETS TO INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS THAN HAD FRANCE. POMPIDOU ALSO CRITICIZED AS UNREALISTIC THOSE WHO BELIEVED THAT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE CAN BE BASED ON THE "LAW OF THE MARKET".

3. POMPIDOU EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE WORLD SHORTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. EXPANSION OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE WAS DESIRABLE NOT ONLY FOR FRANCE AND EUROPE BUT FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL. BUT EXPANSION OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE SHOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE OF A FAMILY-TYPE AGRICULTURE AND A DEPOPULATION OF FARM AREAS. PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED TO REFLECT INCREASING COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND IN ADDITION, THE FARMERS' STANDARD-OF-LIVING MUST BE IMPROVED. POMPIDOU AND CHIRAC POINTED TO THE BENEFITS TO EC CONSUMERS OF THE CAP POLICIES AND ESPECIALLY THE ANTI-INFLATIONARY BENEFITS OF THESE POLICIES DURING LAST YEAR OF LARGE INCREASES IN WORLD PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

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4. CHIRAC AND OTHER SPEAKERS NOTED THE TURN AROUND IN FRENCH AGRICULTURAL TRADE TO A SURPLUS POSITION AS RESULT OF EXPANSION OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE WITH CAP POLICIES. TODAY, THEY SAID THIS SURPLUS WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER IN PREVENTING A DEFICIT IN FRENCH BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS. POMPIDOU STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A TOTAL NATIONAL EFFORT, INCLUDING FARMERS, TO RESTRICT IMPORTS AND EXPAND EXPORTS IN 1974.

5. POMPIDOU STATED THAT HIS "EXCELLENT" AGMINISTER WAS GOING TO ASK FOR A 10 PERCENT INCREASE IN INTERVENTION PRICES FOR BEEF NEXT WEEK IN BRUSSELS. THE COMMUNITY IS DEFICIT IN BEEF AND ONLY WAY TO LESSEN THIS DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS, HE SAID, IS THROUGH HIGHER PRICE INCENTIVES TO FARMERS. HOWEVER, LE FIGARO REPORTED TODAY THAT CHIRAC IS PESSIMISTIC ON HIS CHANCES OF GETTING AGREEMENT ON AN IMPORT EMBARGO AND AN IMMEDIATE RISE IN THE BEEF PRICE.

6. COMMENT. AS NOTED, THE TRADITIONAL FRENCH POSITIONS ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND TRADE WERE ENUNCIATED BY BOTH GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS. MAIN NEW ELEMENT WAS INCREASED EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN FRENCH BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS POSITION. STILL A TONE OF MODERATION WHICH WAS SET BY THE PRESIDENT OF CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT WAS MAINTAINED BY ALL SPEAKERS. POMPIDOU INTRODUCED HIS DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY AS WELL AS DIVERSIFIED APPROACHES; WITHOUT FLEXIBILITY, HE SAID, SATISFACTORY POLICIES COULD NOT BE DEVELOPED. AGMINISTER CHIRAC AS WELL AS DELEAU, LEADING FRENCH AGRICULTURAL SPOKESMAN, WERE MUCH MORE RESTRAINED IN THEIR RHETORIC THAN USUAL.
STONE

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